

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 141640Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3380

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2872

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY

SUBJECT: UNFICYP REDUCTIONS

REF: STATE 98276 AND STATE 91875

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON GREEK MFA CYPRUS DIRECTOR METAXAS MAY 14 ON BASIS REFERENCED MESSAGES. METAXAS LISTENED CAREFULLY AND REMARKED THAT WHILE HE ANTICIPATED NO SHIFT IN GREEK POSITION FAVORING IN PRINCIPLE UNFICYP REDUCTIONS HE WOULD PREFER NOT TO RESPOND UNTIL NEXT WEEK AFTER HE CONFERRED WITH OTHERS IN MFA AND COULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN CYPRUS.

2. TURNING TO PROSPECT OF RESUMPTION OF INTERCOMMUNAL
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TALKS, METAXAS SAID THAT AT MOMENT HE WAS NOT SANGUNIE.

HE TOLD EMBOFFS GOG INITIATIVE IN PRESENTING REVISED FORMULA LAST WEEK FOR RESUMING TALKS WAS SUMMARILY REJECTED BY TURKS. METAXAS ADDED THAT NO FORMULA WAS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION AND THAT TURKS APPARENTLY OPPOSED EVEN THE MOST NEUTRAL LANGUAGE. HE REPEATED THAT OUTLOOK FOR RESUMTION WAS NOT ENCOURAGING.

3. ACTING DCM QUERIED METAXAS ON DAY'S PRESS REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT MAKARIOS' POSITION MAY BE THREATENED BY MOVE TO OVERTHROW CYPRUS GOVERNMENT. METAXAS CHARACTERIZED NEWSPAPER STORIES AS "VASTLY EXAGGERATED" SPECULATION. HE POINTED OUT THEFT OF WEAPONS FROM NATIONAL GUARD COULD EXPECTEDLY STIR CERTAIN ANXIETIES IN VARIOUS QUARTERS, BUT AS SAME TIME IT WAS NOT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS TO ESCALATE SITUATION INTO NEW CRISIS. HE ADDED THAT GOG STILL DID NOT HAVE FACTS ON AGIA IRINI INCIDENT. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUERY ON STATUS EOKA-B, METAXAS REMARKED THAT ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS' LATEST STATEMENT URGING EOKA-B TO DISARM WAS POSITIVE STEP, BUT THEFT OF ARMS FROM NATIONAL GUARD AND TENSION WITHIN GREEK COMMUNITY SEEM TO HAVE NULLIFIED ITS GOOD IMPACT.

4. COMMENT: METAXAS' REQUEST TO DEFER PRESENTATION OF GREEK VIEWS ON UNFICYP REDUCTION SEEMS REASONABLE IN LIGHT OF FACT GOG HAS NOT MADE KNOWN ITS VIEW ON FURTHER REDUCTIONS SINCE NOVEMBER 25 COUP SO FAR AS EMBASSY AWARE. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SAME REASON WHY GOG PREVIOUSLY FAVORED REDUCING UNFICYP WOULD CONTINUE TO PERTAIN. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY NEW PRESENT GOVERNMENT MAY ADD SOME NEW INGREDIENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TROOP REDUCTIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS02872
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740119-0120
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740551/aaaabswt.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 98276 AND STATE 91875
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNFICYP REDUCTIONS
TAGS: PFOR, CY, UN, UNFICYP, (METAXAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005